

entrance has been made through the tower, where large clustered columns support an arch, the lower part of which was formerly blocked up and disfigured by the western gallery, and the head-work with lath and plastering. Through this opening access is gained to the central aisle. The unsightly and cumbersome gallery having been removed, the western window appears to good effect. A continuation of the southern aisle has been made to communicate with it by a pointed archway in the eastern side of the tower, and is pewed with open sittings of carved oak.—*Thursby parish church*, says the *Carlisle Journal*, having been recently rebuilt, the reverberation of sound was found to render articulation almost utterly unintelligible. A parabolic sounding board was accordingly put up, and although its utility in other cases has been regarded as but equivocal at best, the experiment in this case seems to have been successful. The board put up is a semi-parabola described by half a revolution of a parabolic curve, and is so fixed, over the pulpit, of course, that the mouth of the speaker may be in or near the focus of the curve.—The blast-furnaces of the *Ayrshire Iron Company*, at *Dairy*, are to be stopped—an announcement which has caused much dismay in the district, as a vast body of workmen will be thrown out of employment at this inclement season. So rapidly have the wages of the miners too fallen, that they are now paid only 2s. 11d. a day, whereas some time since they received 5s. a day.—At the anniversary of the *Glasgow Master Ironfounders' Association*, held the other day, it was stated by Mr. Neilson, that since the introduction of his hot-blast process, the yearly manufacture of iron in Scotland had increased from 40,000 tons, in 1824, to nearly 500,000 tons.—Another large block of commercial buildings is about being erected in *Liverpool*. The front will be in *Dale-street*, adjoining the *Royal Bank Buildings*. This front, which will be of stone in the ornamental style of the Renaissance, is comparatively narrow, but behind the site expands into a quadrangle surrounded with buildings, and with an additional frontage to *Sweeting-street* of about 45 yards. The whole premises occupy 1445 square yards, inclusive of the quadrangle. The cost, exclusive of site, will be about 16,000*l*. The architect is Mr. J. A. Pictan.

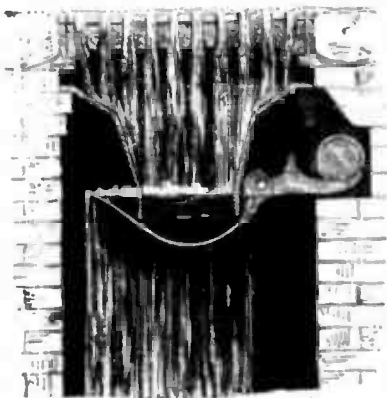
RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

A curious and indeed amusingly ingenious little instrument, as an alarm from passengers to guards, has been invented by Mr. Jonathan Hunt, of *Kennington-oval*. We know not what he calls it, unless it be an alarm whistle, but it is in fact a double whistle-pump or squirt-whistle, designed to be fixed on the top of each carriage, with the handle within, so placed as to be easily and rapidly worked by hand both up and down, during each of which movements the compressed air is made to force its way out of a railway whistle, one at top, the other at bottom of the cylinder. The most amusing feature in the whole, however, is the fact that, owing to the difference of power or purchase in pulling down and forcing up the little piston through the cylinder or pump, it has been found desirable to lessen the top whistle and enlarge the bottom one, so that the alternate screech of the high note and the low must remind one strongly of the powerful bray of the ass. The only fear, probably, is that it might be handled at times with rather more appropriateness than propriety,—but if any thing in the whistle line be ever adapted to such a purpose, nothing short of the notorious ass-power engine itself is likely to excel Mr. Jonathan Hunt's really very ingenious invention. From a personal inspection, the *Mining Journal* has no hesitation in gravely testifying to its efficacy, as well as its ingenuity.—The chairman of a board of directors, during the week just past, received by way of presents, and 'among other items' 140 turkeys and 50 geese! a goodly number of geese and turkeys truly! Most of them,—the great director not being hungry, or in such imminent peril of starvation as his friends must have supposed,—were distributed amongst his less fortunate friends; and, 'strange to say, in nine or ten instances the presents were un-

tionally returned' to the very dispensers of the gifts,—a hint that they might have made a better use of them, either at home or somewhere else.—The *Lambeth ratepayers* have determined to quash proceedings against the *South-Western Company* for building a bridge-pier in the middle of *Church-street*. The company, as Mr. Tite, their architect, observed, had contributed liberally to the charities of the parish, and this appears to have softened the hearts of the parishioners.—The last arch of the *Crimple viaduct*, on the *Harrogate branch* of the *York and North Midland*, was closed on the 23rd ult. by the contractors, Messrs. Farrell and Sykes. This viaduct is 1848 feet long and 142 feet high, and consists of thirty-one arches of 50 feet span each. It has been constructed in twenty months under the superintendence of Mr. John Cass Birkinshaw, the company's engineer, and his assistant, Mr. Arthur Thackeray, of *Harrogate*.—A large portion of an embankment near *Lamberton*, on the *North British line*, fell in on Sunday week.

SELF-ACTING EFFLUVIA TRAP.

THE annexed diagram represents an effluvia trap, for which Messrs. Bunnett and Corpe have taken out a patent.



The diagram is a sectional view of a street-grating and gully-hole with the trap, which is represented in its ordinary position. The water flowing from the grating into the body of it, and over the edges of the moveable pan at bottom, into the sewer or drain, the lower part of the body of the trap is immersed in the water which is retained in the pan by the counterbalance weight, thereby forming a water joint and preventing smell from rising.

When the trap is choked with silt or other matters, the weight of the counterbalance prevents the opening of the moveable part till the body of the trap is two-thirds full of water. When this is the case, the trap is forced down by the weight of water in the body of it, the force of which is said to be sufficient to cleanse the trap, and flush the sewer or drain; the moveable part then rises to its former position, bringing up sufficient water to form the joint again.

What Mr. Bunnett considers improvements in this, on all similar traps, are the mechanical arrangement of the leverage and the form of the moveable pan.

PROPOSED TOWN HALL AND MARKETS AT YEOVIL.

In reply to a communication on this subject, which appeared in a recent number of our journal,* we have received a long and smart letter from Mr. Davis. We have not room for the whole of it, but in justice give his exoneration:—"I am very sorry that so much time should have unavoidably elapsed before I could, in a prudent manner, reply to Mr. Thomas Stent's defamatory letter against me, which appeared in *THE BUILDER* of the 4th instant. The special commissioners of *Yeovil* have periodical meetings. The first they had after the publication was on the 22nd instant, when I caused to be laid before them the number of your useful publication containing his (Mr. Stent's) letter, to have a refutation

to it by them (the commissioners). The following is an extract from a letter from Mr. Vining, their clerk, the 23rd instant:—"Sir, I was authorised to add, that you never either directly or indirectly, through me or to the commissioners, proposed, or even suggested that you should be appointed to act as their architect." His letter is a wanton and unprovoked attack upon my character, which future circumstances will probably explain. I have made myself comparatively easy that the envious spirit and motive, under which the letter was penned, are clearly seen and understood by discerning minds.

"How bright soe'er the prospect seems
All thoughts of friendship are but dreams,
If envy chance to creep in;
An envious man if you succeed,
May prove a dangerous foe indeed,
But not a friend worth keeping."—*Corper*.

Relative to a private interview with the Commissioners, I may truthfully inform you I never had one in the sense Mr. Stent implies. I have not the advantage of knowing either personally or by name one of those gentlemen. All my negotiations with them have been through a highly respectable gentleman. I never proposed nor hinted, directly nor indirectly, to the commissioners, nor had any idea of any position with them except that of the building contractor.

JAMES DAVIS, Builder.

Frome, Dec. 27, 1847.

P.S. I think it possible the mistake may have arisen from the fact that Mr. Davis, of *Langport*, being both an architect and building contractor in this much-ado contract, the editors of the local papers may have confounded his name with mine, when it was reported that Mr. Davis's estimate was adopted."

Correspondence.

LINGFIELD CHURCH.

SIR.—An extract from your paper, *THE BUILDER*, of December 11th, has just been forwarded to me, relating to the recent restoration of *Lingfield Church*, *Surrey*, in which you state that "the interior, if we may believe a correspondent on the subject, is not very satisfactorily restored." I beg to remark in reply, that the restoration has given satisfaction to the parishioners generally, and to very many strangers who have visited it. On the day of the re-opening there were about 1,200 persons present, including the Bishops of *London* and *Winchester*, all of whom expressed themselves much pleased at the manner in which it had been restored.—I am, Sir, &c.,

ROBERT FITZHERBERT FULLER,
Perpetual Curate.

Lingfield, East Grinstead, Jan. 1, 1848.

* Out of respect to Mr. Fuller, we insert his letter, but have no reason to doubt the soundness of our previous correspondent's opinion. Politeness or want of knowledge influences many opinions.

Miscellaneous.

FORGING AND WELDING.—If a piece of iron is filed while hot, the filings appear to increase in temperature as they fall to the ground. I am inclined to think that such is the fact, for if a piece of iron be taken welding hot from a forge fire, and subjected to a blast from the mouth, or common house bellows, it may be kept hot, or even wanted by the action of the blast. I have been informed, that nail-makers have a small pair of bellows fixed in front of their anvil, to blow on the iron while working it, to keep it hot. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to tell who first put this plan in practice. It may be worth considering whether nail-making is the only branch of art it can be applied to. As a practical smith, I have an idea that its use might be very greatly extended; for example, the welding of railway-tyres, forging axles, making cranks, shafts, anchors, &c. At all events, a trial on some heavy work might be made by any one having the opportunity, at a very little or no expense.—*Correspondent of Mechanics' Magazine*.